

whether use has been made by the commission of his official position to promote his private affairs, and whether the purpose, whether there has been discrimination made between applicants for pensions or grants of money, whether the use of the clerks have taken advantage of their position to make profits and whether the civil-service law has been violated by the commission.

Mr. Enloe of Tennessee offered an amendment extending the scope of the inquiry so as to include the methods followed by the board of pension appeals. In advocating his amendment Mr. Enloe criticized the administration of the Pension office, and reiterated the charge against the Commissioner and his son which he made last Congress.

Mr. Smith of Illinois could see no reason why the Pension Office should be made the general target for a number of gentlemen on the floor. He said that the Pension Bureau should be singled out for political speeches and political bombast. (General Enloe was not present.)

TREATING WITH CANADIANS.

Mr. Blair holds a conference with the Dominion representatives.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 10.—The negotiations between the United States and Canada in regard to reciprocal trade relations were opened formally to-day at a conference, held at the State Department, of the representatives of each government. The Secretary of State and Gen. John W. Foster represented the United States, while Canada was represented by a commission consisting of Sir John Thompson, Minister of Justice and Attorney General, Hon. McKenzie Bowell, Minister of Customs and Militia, Hon. George E. Foster, Minister of Finance, Mr. Parnelle, Deputy Commissioner of Customs, and Mr. Stewart, private secretary. The commission really consisted of the three first-named officials, the others accompanying them as attaches. Mr. Bowell takes the place of Sir Charles Tupper, but otherwise the commission is the same as that which visited Washington last year. The commission arrived here at 11 o'clock, and after a brief reception in the State Department, they proceeded to the State Department, where they were met by the Secretary of State and his family. The commission remained in the city for a few days, and then proceeded to the State Department, where they were met by the Secretary of State and his family. The commission remained in the city for a few days, and then proceeded to the State Department, where they were met by the Secretary of State and his family.

This series of negotiations is intended by the Canadian authorities as a preliminary interchange of views for the purpose of ascertaining the points on which each side will be willing to discuss and what form the discussion shall take. The results of this preliminary interchange will be made known to the public. The commission arrived here at 11 o'clock, and after a brief reception in the State Department, they proceeded to the State Department, where they were met by the Secretary of State and his family. The commission remained in the city for a few days, and then proceeded to the State Department, where they were met by the Secretary of State and his family.

REED MAKES A POINT.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 10.—Mr. Reed of New York, from the committee on naval affairs, reported a bill for the establishment of a dry-dock on the government reservation near Algiers, La. Committee of the whole.

MAVE POWER ENOUGH.

An Attorney Objects to Making Interstate-Commerce Commissioners Judges.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 10.—The Senate committee on interstate commerce to-day heard further argument upon the pending Cullom bill to amend the interstate-commerce act so as to clothe the commission's decisions with judicial force, and otherwise to make its provisions more stringent. J. K. Cowen, general counsel for the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Company, was the first speaker. He made a long argument to show that the bill was unconstitutional, and in the course of his argument he asserted that the doctrine laid down by the Supreme Court was that what is a reasonable rate for transportation is a judicial question which cannot be determined by a legislature or by any body except a court of justice. By no means, he said, would Congress take away from the courts the determination of that question. The commission was not to be created, he said, to be empowered to decide judicial questions upon it.

MINOR MATTERS.

A St. Louis Man Thinks There Will Be Revolution in "Future" Gambling Controversies.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 10.—Mr. Forbes of the Duluth Board of Trade, appeared before the House committee on agriculture, to-day, with an argument against the passage of the proposed anti-options bill. His passage, he contended, would demoralize the grain trade of the whole country, and especially that of the West, which was dependent upon water navigation to transport products to market.

Another Survey for the Hawaiian Cable.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 10.—It has been decided that the Navy Department is to make another line of soundings before definitely deciding upon the route for the proposed submarine cable between San Francisco and the Hawaiian Islands. This conclusion has been reached after an examination of the full report just received here of the survey of the two lines recently completed by the fish commission steamer Albatross.

Number of Federal Employees.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 10.—The first volume of the Blue Book for 1891 shows that there are employed in the postal service, 14,431 persons, and in all other departments of the government 62,863 persons, making a total of 77,294.

The Franking Privilege.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 10.—In the Senate, to-day, the bill providing for the publication of the names of the members of the House of Representatives, was taken up as the unfinished business. The clause authorizing the franking of official matter gave rise to some

difficulty as to the correct phraseology to be adopted, and various suggestions were made. Finally it was fixed in these words: "The Vice-president, members and members-elect, Delegates and Delegates-elect to Congress, shall be entitled to the franking privilege through the mails and under their frank any mail matter to any government office, or to any person, shall be sent without a charge of postage."

Has Confidence in Harrison.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 10.—Col. Henry G. Parker, editor of the oldest and one of the strongest Republican newspapers in Boston, the Saturday Evening Gazette, is here and says: "Massachusetts to-day is firm in its confidence in Benjamin Harrison and that confidence has been of steady growth. Massachusetts recognizes his steady ability. His lofty character, his unimpeachable personal honor and integrity, and sincerely hopes for his re-election."

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Appointments by the President.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 10.—The President to-day sent to the Senate the following nominations: Walter H. Sanborn, Minnesota, to be United States Circuit Court judge for the Eighth judicial circuit; Joseph Buffington, United States district judge for the Western district of Pennsylvania; John H. Bunker, associate justice of the Supreme Court of Oklahoma; Henry L. Hess, register of the land office at Ashland, Wis.; and William C. Dragan, commissioner in and for the district of Alaska, to reside at Wrangell.

Has Confidence in Harrison.

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